

2014 West Nile Virus Surveillance

Protocol for Dead Bird Monitoring

Washington State Department of Health
Zoonotic Disease Program

Dead Bird Monitoring Protocol

Two Collection Methods: Swab and Carcass

- ▶ Corvid oral swab sample using Whatman Indicating FTA ® Micro Card
- ▶ Non-corvid carcass
 - ▶ For testing approval contact:
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Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

About the Whatman Indicating FTA[®] Micro Card

- ▶ Indicating FTA card provides a convenient method to collect and isolate nucleic acid samples for analysis
- ▶ Apply biological sample to the FTA matrix and the nucleic acids are instantly captured and stabilized

Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

About the Whatman Indicating FTA[®] Micro Card

- ▶ Pathogens are inactivated, making samples safe to handle and ship via standard mail
- ▶ Indicating FTA card changes color from pink to white when sample is applied

Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

About the Whatman Indicating FTA® Micro Card

- ▶ Indicating FTA card is suitable for samples collected from crows, jays, magpies, and other **corvids** known to have a high viral concentration in oral secretions
- ▶ Cards have a shelf-life of 3 years

Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

- ▶ Always wear gloves while handling dead birds and FTA cards
- ▶ Complete a dead bird reporting form for each bird and note identification number (Local ID)

Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

- ▶ Place the FTA card on a clean, dry, flat surface.
- ▶ Label card with Local ID and submitting agency
- ▶ With swab in one hand, open the bird's beak with the other hand



Attention: Always wear gloves when handling FTA cards and avoid touching the pink sample area of the card.

Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

▶ Insert foam tip into oral cavity and swab the top, sides, and back of mouth and throat

Note: Thaw out frozen birds completely before swabbing.

▶ Soak up as much saliva as possible



Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

► Carefully lift the paper cover of the FTA card to expose the pink sample area. Press the foam tip within the center of the sample circle area

► Roll tip side-to-side to completely saturate sample area

Note: It's not necessary to saturate the entire sample area, just the center portion.



Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

► Sample area will turn white indicating the transfer of the sample

Note: Don't reuse the swab after tip has touched the FTA card.



Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

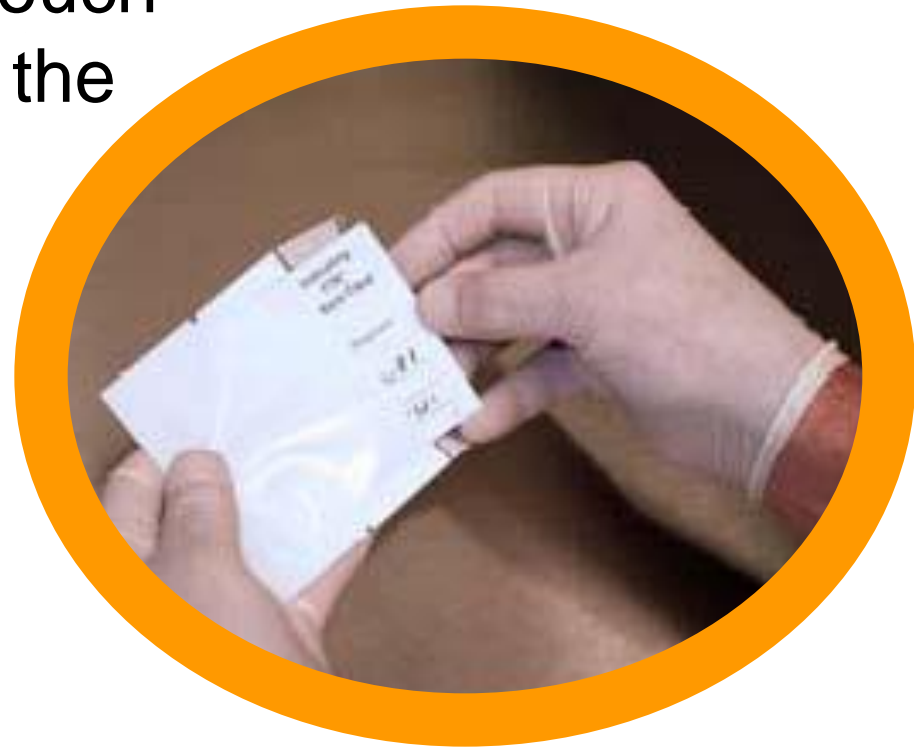
- ▶ Position the FTA card for drying by supporting the sample area with the paper cover as shown
- ▶ Allow the card to dry for 1 hour
- ▶ Appropriately bag and dispose of the bird, swab, and gloves



Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

► To transport, place the FTA card into a multi-barrier pouch and seal by folding along the perforated line

Note: Only one FTA card is to be placed in a multi-barrier pouch.



Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

- ▶ Place pouch with the completed **dead bird submission form** into an envelope and mail to WADDL



Submitting Oral Swab

Mail to:

Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
Washington State University
Bustad Hall, Room 155-N
Pullman WA 99164-7034

Dead Bird Monitoring Protocol

DOH West Nile Virus Website

www.doh.wa.gov/wnv

Search for “West Nile Virus Resources and Tools”

- ▶ Look under “Surveillance Tools”
 - ▶ Dead Bird Surveillance Protocol & Dead Bird Submission Form

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Questions? Please contact

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